

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Woodville School/Knights of St. John's Hall Inventory Number: PG-87B-34
 Address: 21500 Aquasco Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
 City: Aquasco Zip Code: 20608 County: Prince Georges
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Benedict
 Property Owner: Knights of St. John, Commandery No. 3 Tax Account ID Number: 0836775
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 22 Tax Map Number: 180
 Project: Cove Point Expansion Project Agency: FERC
 Agency Prepared By: GAI Consultants, Inc.
 Preparer's Name: Matthew Hyland Date Prepared: 9/7/2004
 Documentation is presented in: _____
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: _____
 Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
 Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Knights of St. John's Hall is wood framed and clad in aluminum siding. The building dates to 1934 when it functioned as a school for the local African American community. The one-story building features an asphalt shingle hipped roof, a concrete block foundation, and modern replacement windows. The façade of the building is 13-bays wide. The centered entry is sheltered by a gabled porch, which is supported by knee braces, and is flanked by shallow pilasters. An addition has been appended to the rear of the building.

Local informants state that prior to functioning as a social organization's hall, the building served as a colored school during the period of segregated education in Maryland's history (William Brookes personal communication July 2004). Previous historical research shows that this school house is the second building to serve as a segregated school for the local African-American community since Emancipation. Built in 1934 by the Board of Education with labor supplied by the Emergency Relief Administration during the Depression, this school replaced an older school, which is no longer extant, built at a location across the road by the county board of School Commissioners in 1877. At the time of its construction, this three-room school house was the largest rural school for African Americans in Prince George's County. The school closed in 1955.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
 Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
 MHT Comments:

Andrew Lewis
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
[Signature]
 Reviewer, National Register Program

6/12/06
 Date
6/8/06
 Date

200601758

The architecture of the Woodville School compares to the Quince Orchard Colored School of Montgomery County. Alterations to the Woodville School building have not compromised its integrity. It still conveys its historic function as a school building.

The Woodville School building meets the NRHP age criterion (50 years old or older), and it meets NRHP criterion A for listing in the register. The Woodville School represents a significant phase in the history of public education in Maryland. Further directed historical research would support its nomination to the NRHP under Criterion A.

The Woodville School does not meet Criterion C. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. It does not possess distinctive architectural values. It is not located in any known historic district. It is not associated with an individual significant in local, state, or national history.

It is recommended as eligible for listing under NRHP Criterion A.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

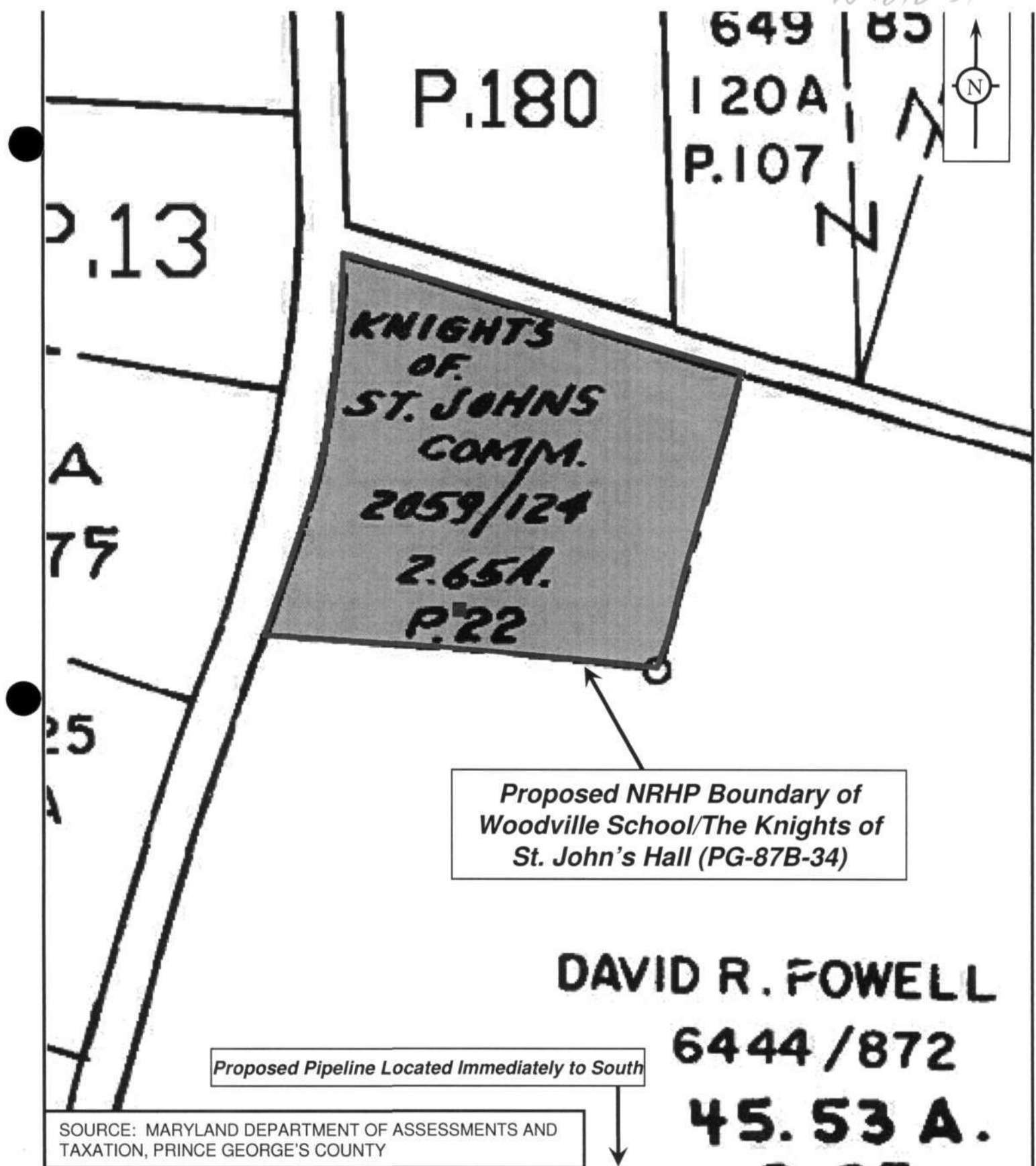
Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

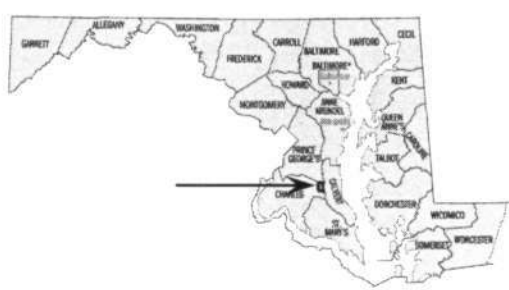
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



SOURCE: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

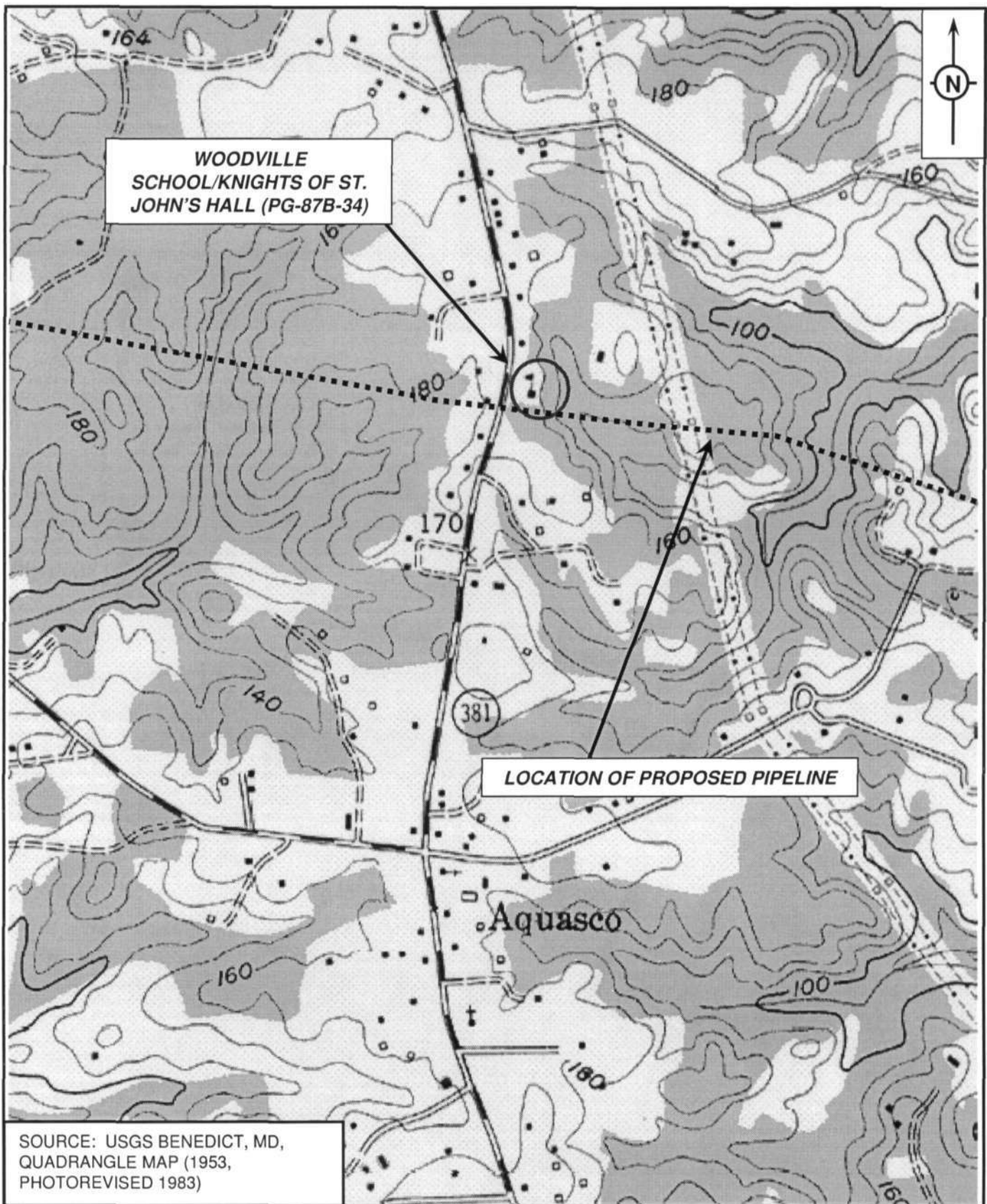


FIGURE

NRHP BOUNDARY OF PG-87B-34
WOODVILLE SCHOOL/KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN'S HALL
COVE POINT PIPELINE EXPANSION PROJECT



gai consultants



gai consultants

**FIGURE**

LOCATION OF WOODVILLE
SCHOOL/KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN'S
HALL (PG-67B-34)

COVE POINT PIPELINE EXPANSION
PROJECT



1/2

P6. 87B-34

Woodville School

Aguasco, Prince George's County

Matthew G. Hyland

GAI Consultants, Inc.

Facade, facing E

August 2004



2/2

87 B-34

Woodville School.

Agvasco, Prince Georges County

Matthew G. Hyland

EAI Consultants, Inc.

N. and E. elevations, facing SW

P.G. #87B-34
Woodville School
21500 Aquasco Road, Aquasco, Md.
Priv/Occ/Relig-Social/Good

1934

The Woodville schoolhouse is a one-story, three-room frame building with hip roof. Entrance is in the central bay of the main (west) facade; it is covered by a small canopy with one small window on each side. The rest of the west facade consists of two banks (one on each side of the central entrance) of five large 6/6 windows.

The first school for Blacks in the Aquasco area was built by the Freedmen's Bureau in 1868, almost certainly on the grounds of John Wesley Church. By 1877, however, the Board of School Commissioners built a school farther north at the entrance to the Thomas farm (present intersection of Dr. Bowen Road and Aquasco Road). This was a one-room frame building, which continued in use until 1934. In this year, the decision was made to build a new and larger school. The Board of Education purchased a two-and-one-half-acre lot, and construction was carried out by Emergency Relief Administration labor. The resulting three-room building was the largest rural school built for Blacks in Prince George's County up to that time. The school closed in 1955, and was sold to the St. John's Commandery #373; since that time, it has been used as a meeting place and social hall for the Black Catholic population of the Aquasco area.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G. 87B-34

Magi No. 1786015810

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Woodville "Colored" School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 21500 Aquasco Road (Maryland Route 381) ☐ not for publication

city, town Aquasco ☐ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county P. G.

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Knights of St. John Commandery #373

street & number 21500 Aquasco Road telephone no.:

city, town Aquasco state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courthouse liber 2059

street & number Main Street folio 124

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 87B-34

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Woodville schoolhouse is a one-story, three-room frame building with a hipped roof. The entrance is in the central bay of the (main) west facade; it is covered by a small pointed canopy, and flanked by one small six-pane window on each side. The rest of the west facade is taken up by two banks (one on each side of the central entrance) of five large 6/6 windows. A brick chimney rises from each of the north and south planes of the hipped roof.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 87B-34

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates 1934 Builder/Architect Upman and Adams, Architects

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The location of the first school for Black children in Woodville (Aquasco) has not been definitely established, but it was very likely on the property of John Wesley Methodist Church. Freedmen's Bureau papers indicate that the schoolhouse was completed by 1868, and the three school trustees (Richard Douglas, James Gray, and Walter Thomas) were all trustees of John Wesley Methodist Church which had been established two years earlier. (See P.G. #87B-33). In any case, the Journal of the Board of School Commissioners indicates that a new Black elementary school was built in 1877 at the entrance to the Thomas farm, i.e., on the west side of the Aquasco Road near the present intersection of Dr. Bowen Road. This was a one-room frame school house (30' x 20') with a 33 desk capacity, blackboards and coal stove.

The 1877 Woodville school continued in steady use until 1934 when the decision was made to build a new and larger schoolhouse. The Board of Education purchased a 2 1/2 acre lot 100 yards north (and across the Aquasco Road) from the old school. Materials for the new "Woodville Colored School" were purchased by the Board, and construction was carried out by Emergency Relief Administration labor. The resulting three-room building was the largest rural school built for Blacks in Prince George's County up to that time.

The "Woodville Colored School" was closed in 1955, and auctioned in 1956. It was purchased by the St. John's Commandery #373, and since that time has been used as a meeting place and social hall for the Black Catholic population of the Aquasco area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.87B-34

P.G. Co. Deeds: #2059:124; #409:328
Bd. of School Commissioners Journals, 1865 - 1903
School Archives, Dept. of Plant Maintenance
Freedmen's Bureau Papers, 1867, 1868

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division, M-NCPPC

date May 1983

street & number 4811 Riverdale Road

telephone 779-2011

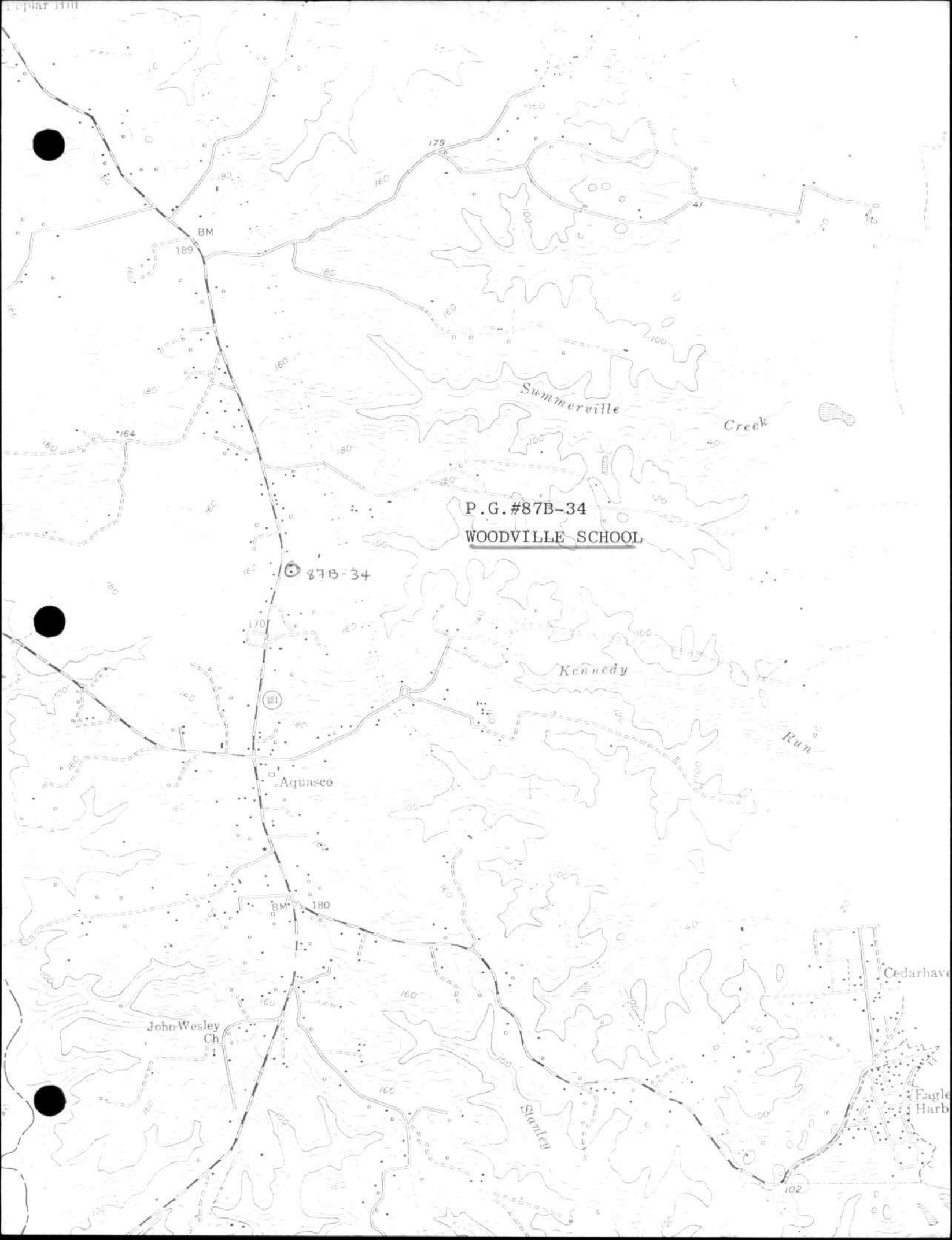
city or town Riverdale

state Maryland 20737

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438





P.G. #87B-34

Woodville (Rosenwald) School
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1983
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.